

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 02690 150817Z

21

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 H-02 INR-05 PRS-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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R 150804Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3986

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2690

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, SY

SUBJ: SYRIAN JEWS: RACHEL FTEIHA

REF: STATE 160889

1. EMBOFF SPOKE WITH SALIM TOUTAH, HEAD OF JEWISH COMMUNITY IN DAMASCUS JULY 14, ABOUT FTEIHA FAMILY, MENTIONING THAT DR. ZAKI FTEIHA HAD RECENTLY APPEARED IN PUBLIC CONGRESSIONAL HEARING IN U.S. TOUTAH RECALLED DR. ZAKI SAYING, "HE WENT TO PARIS FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT," AND WHEN EMBOFF INQUIRED ABOUT RACHEL FTEIHA AND OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS, TOUTAH SAID THEY WERE WELL.

2. TOUTAH THEN RAISED QUESTION OF MURAD KANADI (GUINDI) AND HIS MOTHER WHO WERE ISSUED PASSPORTS AND VISAS TO VISIT U.S. LAST MARCH (SEE PELLETREAU-BULLEN LETTER OF JUNE 12). HE SAID THAT KANADI HAD SENT TALEGRAM REQUESTING SARG AUTHORIZE EXTENSION OF THEIR STAY IN U.S. AND THAT HE, TOUTAH, HAD BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN SUCH AN EXTENSION. HE RECALLED THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY GUARANTEED THE KANADSI' RETURN TO SYRIA.

3. COMMENT. TOUTAH WAS FRIENDLY BUT CAUTIOUS IN CONVERSATION. HE WOULD NOT BE DRAWN OUT FURTHER ON ABOVE SUBJECTS EXCEPT TO SAY HE ENJOYED EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH
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SARG.

4. REQUEST TRANSCRIPT OF JUNE 25 PUBLIC HEARING BE
POUCHED TO EMBASSY.

5. FOR BEIRUT. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ALSO MAKING INDIRECT
INQUIRY IN LOW KEY THROUGH YOUR JEWISH COMMUNITY CONTACTS
ABOUT FTAIHA FAMILY.
MURPHY

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